THE WILLIAMSBURGH SAVINGS BANK
OF BROOKLYN, NEW YORK
U.S.A.



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SEYMOUR DURST



FORT NEW AMSTERDAM



(NEW YORK), 1651.

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The Williamsburgh Savings Bank of Brooklyn, New York U.S.A.

Established in 1851

Sends by its Delegates

Colonel Andrew P. Baird, Vice-President Mr. Cornelius H. Tiebout, Vice-President Mr. Milliam H. Burns, Cashier Mr. Herbert H. Gunnison, Trustee

Most Cordial Greetings

The Edinburgh Savings Bank
on the occasion of the

Centenary of the Establishment of Savings Panks
in Scotland

Inne 8, 9, 10, 1910

THE DELEGATES TO EDINBURGH



COL. ANDREW D. BAIRD
VICE-PRESIDENT



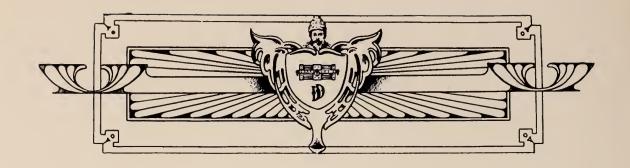
MR. CORNELIUS H. TIEBOUT



MR. WILLIAM F. BURNS
CASHIER



MR. HERBERT F. GUNNISON TRUSTEE



The Williamsburgh Savings Bank

OFFICERS

Ezra B. Tuttle, President

Andrew D. Baird
Cornelius H. Tiebout

Samuel M. Meeker, Secretary
William F. Burns, Cashier

Charles J. Pasfield
Victor A. Lersner

Assistant Cashiers

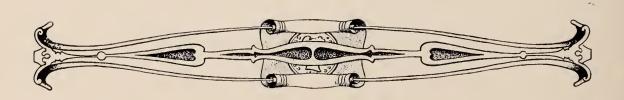
TRUSTEES

Ezra B. Tuttle
Brainard G. Latimer
Andrew D. Baird
Cornelius H. Tiebout
Samuel M. Meeker
James R. Howe
John V. Jewell
James V. Post

James F. Bendernagel
Edward T. Horwill
Alfred Romer
Welding Ring
Herbert F. Gunnison
Francis W. Young
Paul E. Bonner
Edward E. Pearce

COUNSEL

S. M. & D. E. Meeker

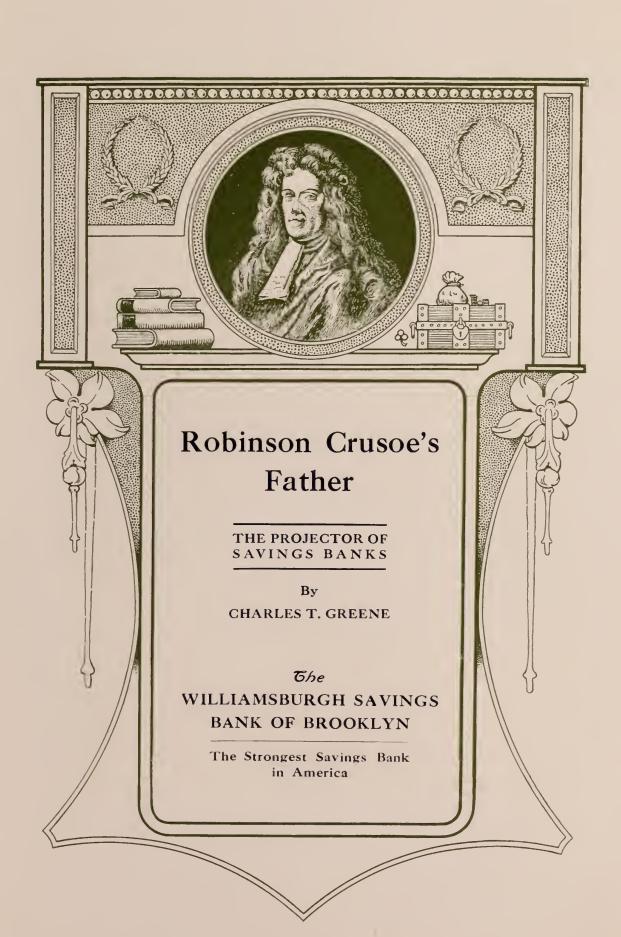




THE WILLIAMSBURGH SAVING BANK

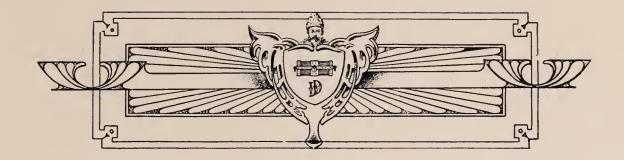


MR. EZRA B. TUTTLE PRESIDENT



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What We Owe to Daniel Defoe.

F course, all of us know who Robinson Crusoe was, and all of us have read or have heard of the wonderful adventures he encountered during his seafaring life. But how many of us know who Crusoe's father was?

If you have been delighted with the tale of Crusoe's exciting career, you cannot help but be pleased with this little biography of Crusoe's father, for that gentleman's career was

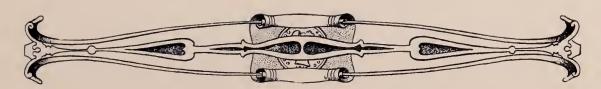
quite as exciting as his son's.

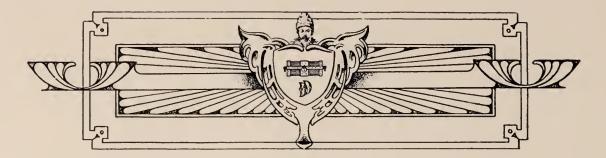
Now, this little booklet is not written in imitation of *The Life And Surprising Adventures of Robinson Crusoe*. Many have tried to imitate that fascinating romance and failed ere this. In fact, this is not a romance at all; but a chronicle of hard, cold facts. And you know that facts are often stranger and certainly should be more edifying than fiction.

Crusoe's father—not his story-book father, but his real father—was Daniel Defoe. Defoe it was, whose fertile imagination conceived all the wonderful experiences and the hair-breadth escapes of Crusoe, so that it may truthfully be said that he was the real father of the man who has these

many years been every school-boy's hero.

Defoe was born in 1661—practically 250 years ago. He was an Englishman and many of his enemies said that his right name was Foe and that he put the *De* in front of it because he was ashamed of his mother country. But that was a libel, for Defoe served his country better than he served himself or was served by it. When a young man he embarked in business as a hosiery merchant and later as a tile merchant;





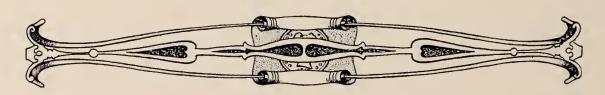
but both enterprises failed. He lost a great deal of money, but later was able to pay all his bills as any honorable man should.

After his disastrous adventures in business, he turned his attention to writing tracts and articles for the newspapers of London, and because in one tract he spoke his mind too freely, he was promptly arrested and thrown into prison. Although this was the climax of the evils that befel him, he did not allow it to embitter his thoughts. Nor did he hold any grudge against the authorities for his sad estate. Indeed, his forced retirement behind prison walls gave him opportunity to do his sovereign a real service, and, what is more to the point of this story, an inestimable service to millions of his fellow-creatures who have come after him.

If You Read a Little Further You Will Find Something to Interest You.

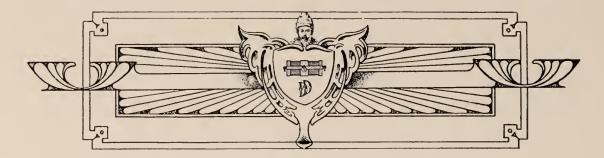
That means that he has been of service to you. But how? you may ask. Read a little further and you shall learn!

We are indebted to Defoe for many things besides the story of Robinson Crusoe. While that may be the best known of the products of his brain, it has not produced the material advantages to us that some of his other things have. For instance, it was he who first advocated the establishment of academies for women. In his day, a great many men did not believe in educating women, just as many men to-day do not believe that women should be allowed to vote.





WILLIAMSBURGH SAVINGS BANK VIEW FROM WILLIAMSBURGH BRIDGE



But Defoe was ahead of his time and were he alive to-day he would still be ahead. On the question of women's rights, Defoe wrote:

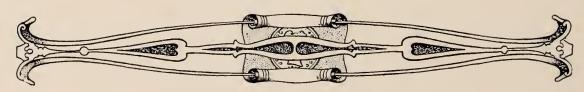
"I have often thought of it as one of the barbarous customs in the world, considering us as a civilized and a Christian country, that we deny the advantages of learning to women. We reproach the sex every day with folly and impertinence, while I am confident had they the advantages of education equal to us, they would be guilty of less than ourselves."

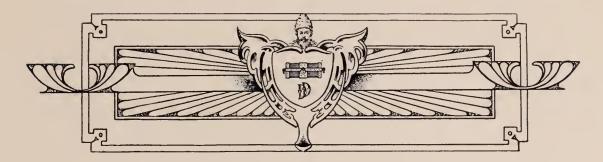
We now have schools and colleges exclusively for girls and young women, and every girl in the Girls' High School and every young woman student in Packer, Smith, Vassar and Wellesley and Bryn Mawr should pay homage to Defoe. Men should, too, for the schools have given us better mothers; better sisters, better sweethearts and better wives.

Defoe also was the first to propose that the bankruptcy laws be modified, and now no one anywhere can be thrown into prison for debt. He was the original "good roads" man; he drew up a scheme for the establishment of the first mutual marine insurance society, for a friendly society, and what is of especial interest to you, he was the first to suggest the establishment of a Savings Bank.

Defoe's Scheme to Banish Pauperism.

In 1689, when he was scarcely 28 years old, Defoe drafted a scheme for the establishment of a pension office which, in organization and purpose, was to be similar to our mutual savings banks, with this difference, that the pension office was to be run by the Government.





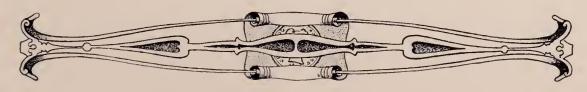
The pension office of Defoe was to be a public benefaction, while our savings banks of to-day are private benefactions. His scheme was to have all the wage-earning citizens of a community to pool a certain amount of their weekly or monthly earnings and place the pool at the disposal of the Government. The latter was to pay interest, and any member of the pool upon proper claim could draw out funds proportionate to his deposits whenever he needed to tide over an emergency. Thus, if he fell sick, or became disabled in the pursuit of his calling, he could apply for a pension, and when he got old he could retire from his labors and live on the income from his savings.

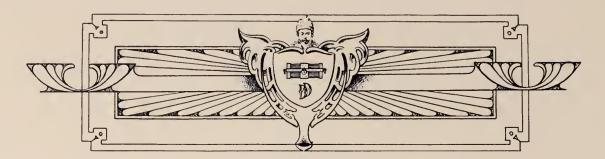
"I desire," said Defoe, in arguing for this scheme, "any man to consider the present state of this Kingdom, and tell me if all the people of England, old and young, rich and poor, were to pay into one common bank four shillings per annum a head, and that four shillings duly and honestly managed, whether the overplus would not in all probability maintain all that should be poor, and forever banish beggary and poverty out of the kingdom?"

The idea of Defoe's pension office to many of us may at first seem very remote from the idea upon which a savings bank is founded; but if we pause a moment to think, we shall soon come to see that a savings bank is not very different

from such a pension office after all.

Indeed, the purpose of the organizers of the New York Institution for Savings, which was the first savings bank established in this country, was to banish pauperism. They called their organization at first "An Association for the Banishment of Pauperism."





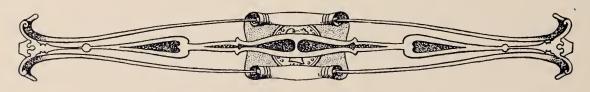
Of course, from our modern savings banks all the features of Defoe's pension office scheme have been eliminated except that which insures against penury and want in old age.

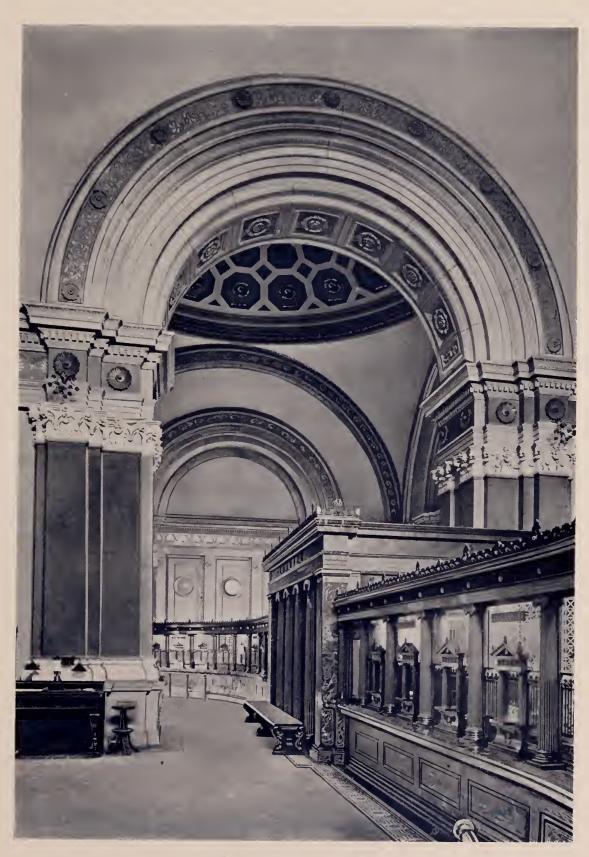
The Germans Were the First to Adopt the Scheme.

The people were not as thrifty or as saving in Defoe's day as they are now, and no one cared to take up his suggestion to establish pension offices or friendly societies until long after his death. In fact, it was not until 1765 that the original ancestor of our modern savings banks was set up. The Germans saw virtue in Defoe's scheme, and so after thinking about it for fifty years or so, they established a savings bank in Brunswick. This one proved so successful that others sprang up in other parts of Germany and in Switzerland; but it was not until 1810 that a savings bank was actually put into operation in Great Britain.

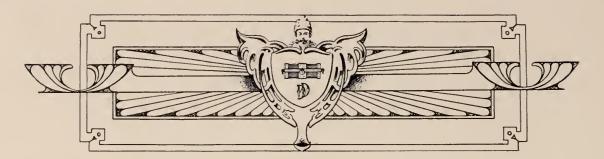
It is true that in 1797 Jeremy Bentham had revived Defoe's scheme and, with some improvements, proposed the establishment of frugality banks; but it was not until the Rev. Henry Duncan, of Ruthwell, Scotland, became interested in the savings bank movement in 1810 that the English-speaking people were afforded a safe place in which to invest their small savings, and to pile up a surplus against the proverbial rainy day.

By the year 1817, the movement had spread so rapidly and so many institutions had been set up that the British Parliament passed laws to encourage the further development of the movement.





AN INTERIOR VIEW



The Beginning of Savings Banks in the United States.

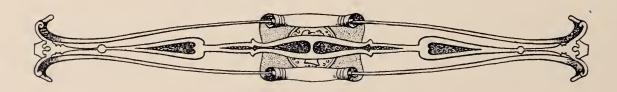
The United States was not far behind Great Britain in recognizing the value of savings banks, and in 1816 the first American savings bank was organized in New York City, though it seems that one had been actually opened in Philadelphia before the New York institution was really under way. The first incorporated savings bank was opened in

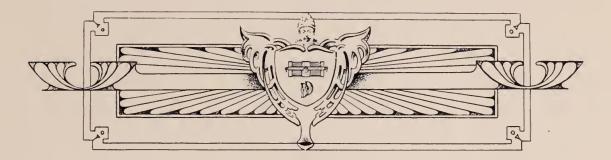
Boston during the same year.

Since that year the savings bank movement in the United States has grown to tremendous proportions. In 1820, four years after the founding of the first bank, there were but ten in the entire country. The depositors in these ten banks numbered but 8,635, and the deposits to but scarcely more than a million dollars. To-day, according to the latest report of the United States Monetary Commisson, there are 18,245 institutions in the country that solicit savings accounts; 14,894,696 savings depositors, and \$5,678,735,379 in savings deposits.

The growth of the savings bank movement in the rest of the world is also quite as remarkable. In all countries outside of the United States there are 95,524,331 depositors whose savings aggregate \$9,710,936,635, and this vast sum added to that representing the total savings of this country makes a still greater and more incomprehensible sum—\$15,389,672,014. The total number of depositors in the world is computed at 110,419,027.

Are you one of these?





Our Savings Are Our Best Friend.

BUT let us get down to particulars. Let us take the growth and development of the strongest savings bank in the world for an example. Glittering generalities are often like grand stand plays; they fail of their purpose. Our purpose is to convince you that there is not a safer place in the world in which to put your money than a savings bank, and the best savings bank to put your money in is necessarily the strongest.

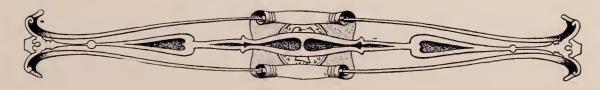
Why is a savings bank the safest place in the world to place your savings in?

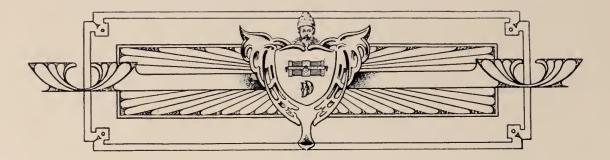
Because it has nothing to do with speculation nor get-rich-quick schemes.

Man is the worst of all God's creatures to shift for himself. No other animal is ever actually starved to death. Nature without has provided them both food and clothes, and Nature within has placed an instinct that never fails to direct them to proper means for a supply; but man must either work or starve, slave or die. He has indeed reason given him to direct him, and few who follow the dictates of reason come to such unhappy straits; but when, by the errors of a man's youth, he has reduced himself to such a degree of distress as to be absolutely without three things; money, friends and health, he dies in a ditch or in some worse place.

Ten thousand ways there are to bring a man to this, and

but few to bring him out again.





If you resort to a system of saving your pennies when young, you may avoid the ditch or worse place, or if you stumble into the ditch, you may get out of it again by commencing to save forthwith.

But beware of speculation and shortcuts to millions!

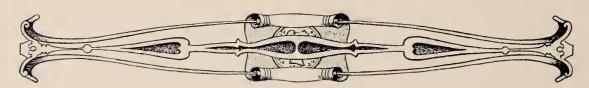
The Savings Bank Law of New York is the Best Law Ever Devised.

In these days, especially since the light of publicity has been thrown upon so many methods of finance and investment resulting in disclosures that have been anything but indicative of the inherent honesty of human nature, it is exceptional that men will trust even a small sum to another. But despite these sad discoveries and the sadder experience of "lambs" who have been shorn, confidence in savings banks has remained undisturbed—and deservedly so.

The law of the State of New York governing the administration of savings banks is the best law that has ever been devised. It is admittedly a model for all other states to follow in the fashioning of similar laws. The law is so comprehensive that it covers every form of investment and anticipates every ingenuity of men anxious to reap greater returns

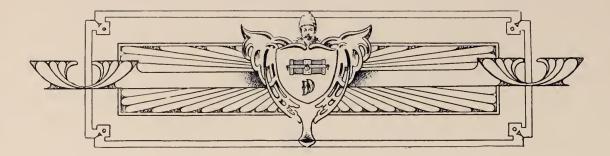
without stopping to consider the greater risk.

The savings banks of New York State are mutual institutions. The depositors stand in the same relation to the trustees as stockholders in a stock corporation stand to their directors. They are the recipients of the profits made by the





ROTUNDA FOR DEPOSITORS

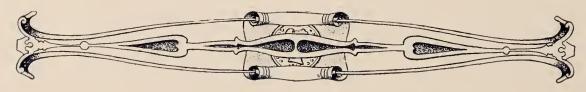


banks in the shape of compounded interest. Their trustees work absolutely for nothing; they are not even allowed to collect the ordinary fees for attending meetings. Their reward is solely in that self-satisfaction which comes to any man who is engaged in philanthropic work.

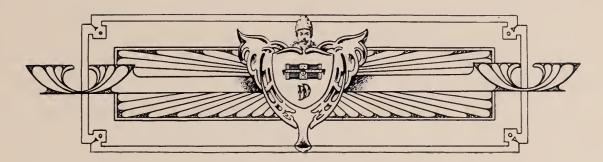
The officers and clerks are the only ones aside from the depositors who derive an income from their operation. The aggregate salaries paid to savings bank officials and clerks during the year 1909 in the twenty-one savings banks of Brooklyn amounted to but \$497,769. This is a comparatively insignificant amount when compared with the total amount of money which is placed in their care—\$228,029,166, according to the last official report of the State Banking Department.

A Savings Bank Does Not Hoard Money, But Invests It.

You may have the idea that the money you place in savings banks is hoarded up behind the ponderous bolted doors of the bank vaults. While a certain percentage is kept in the vaults to meet the average requirements of depositors who desire to withdraw their money, the bulk of deposits of savings banks is invested in bonds and mortgages. The state law specifies the kind of bonds that savings banks may buy and limits the amount of money they can invest in mortgages. With the exception of some of the money invested in bonds of other states and cities and in selected railroad corporations, the funds of the Brooklyn and other savings banks are invested in properties and activities in their immediate neighborhoods.



The Williamsburgh Savings Bank of Brooklyn

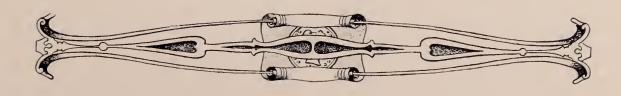


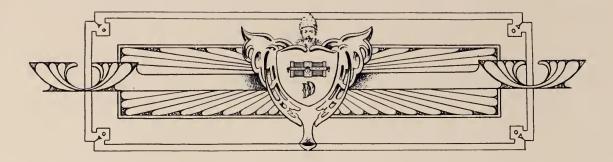
Savings banks thus serve two purposes—to conserve and invest profitably the funds of the man or the woman who works for wages, and to lend aid in the development of the communities in which they have been established. Thus every savings bank depositor may feel a certain sense of pride in his contemplation of the rapid increase of homes and other structures in his own city. For, it is by his aid alone that this development has been made possible.

But we are still talking in general terms; now for the particular thing which the author of this little booklet desires to

bring to your attention!







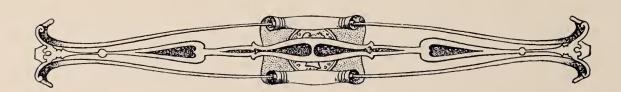
The Williamsburgh Savings Bank is the Strongest in America.

O you know the Williamsburgh Savings Bank? It is in the interest of this bank that this little booklet has been written. The Williamsburgh Savings Bank is one of the strongest savings banks in the world. It is the strongest because the proportion between its total resources and its surplus is represented by a greater percentage than that of any other bank.

The surplus of a savings bank is the amount of money which it has in excess of the total amount it owes to depositors. Thus, if the Williamsburgh Savings Bank were to pay all its debts to-day it would have left more than 13 per cent. of its total resources. In other words, if all of its depositors demanded their money, the bank could pay them and still have \$7,172,738 left.

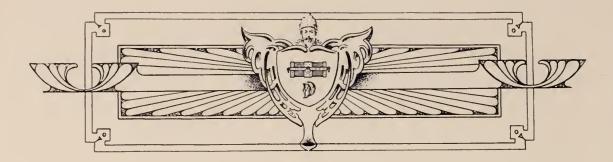
No other savings bank in America has a greater percentage of surplus than the Williamsburgh.

It has taken a long while to pile up this amount of money and as it represents, in a way, a surety for the liquidation of all debts at one hundred cents on the dollar, it is to the advantage of any one who is seeking a place to put his savings to choose an old bank.





THE VAULT IN MAIN BUILDING

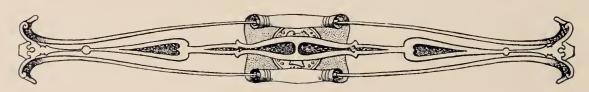


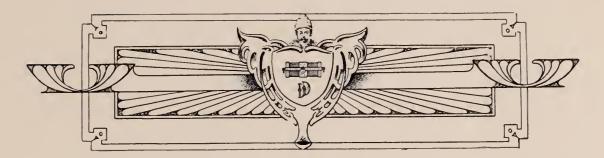
Philanthropists Organized the Williamsburgh Savings Bank.

The Williamsburgh Savings Bank was organized in 1851 by a number of prominent citizens of the then city of Williamsburgh. These citizens were philanthropists and looked after the newly formed bank without compensation. The first home of the bank was the basement of a church on the corner of South Third and Fourth Streets, and in this respect was launched under auspices similar to that of the first savings bank of Scotland. For the first two years of its existence business was conducted in this church basement and deposits received every Monday, Wednesday and Saturday afternoon. There were no cashiers, tellers or clerks in those days. The trustees of the bank themselves attended to all the affairs of the institution.

The necessary expenses of opening, including the cost of furniture, books and stationery, advertising, rent, fuel and other current expenses, were all earned and liquidated from the profits of the first eighteen months of operation, and in addition to this, the trustees were able to credit to depositors their regular interest at the rate of six per cent. per annum.

During the third year of the bank's existence, the trustees erected a banking house at the corner of South Third Street and Bedford Avenue and moved into it on the thirtieth day of January, 1854. This building is still standing and now houses the Williamsburgh Hospital. The cost of the ground and building was earned, over and above the interest credited to depositors, by the end of the seventh year of operation.





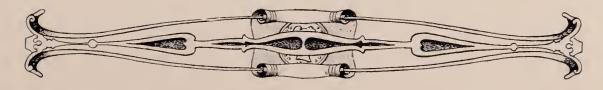
This structure remained the home of the bank until May 30, 1875, when its present monumental home at the corner of Driggs Avenue and Broadway was opened for business. This building was five years in course of construction. An annex to it, almost as large as the original structure, was completed in October, 1906. The enlarged building occupies a plot of ground 130 by 100 feet. It is surmounted by a dome whose graceful curves and exquisitely designed lantern compare favorably with those of the capitol dome at Washington, with St. Paul's in London and St. Peter's in Rome.

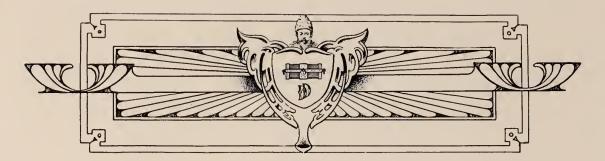
The interior of the structure is spacious and palatial. The interior of the dome is especially elaborate in design. The apex of it is 110 feet above the level of the marble floor.

The History of the Williamsburgh Savings Bank is the History of Success.

The history of the Williamsburgh Savings Bank is the history of the success that comes to those who have a high purpose in view and who go about to achieve that purpose in a manly, upright and disinterested way. None but the foremost men in the old city of Williamsburgh and in the present Eastern District of Brooklyn have ever been identified with the Williamsburgh Savings Bank, and the confidence and trust which the public has placed in these men and in their enterprise come as an honestly earned and justly merited reward.

During its fifty-nine years the bank has never once been in difficulties or suffered embarrassment, and public faith in it





has never been shaken. It has entered into the life of the community, and by the aid it has extended to home builders has done more than any one other agency to develop the community round about it.

The venerable John Broach, who was one of its first

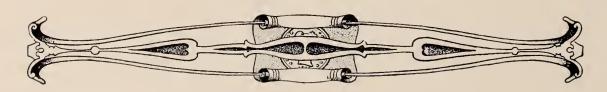
cashiers, wrote in his annual report way back in 1868:

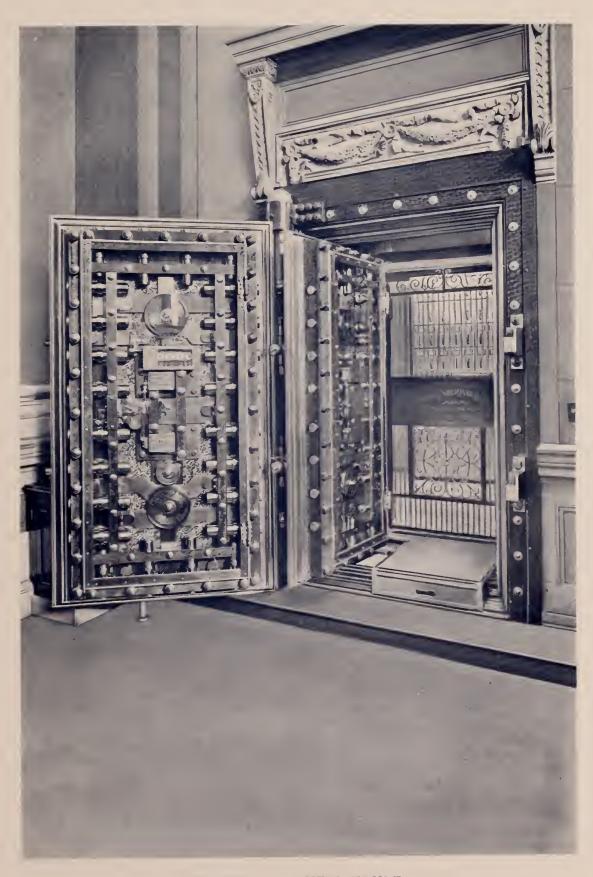
"The bank has made over 800 loans on bonds and mortgages amounting in the aggregate to about \$2,500,000, of which about \$1,000,000 has been paid off, leaving about \$1,500,000 now invested in 500 mortgages remaining open.

"The loans have greatly aided in building up the district in which the bank is located; many of them have been what are termed 'building loans,' advanced as the building progressed. The amount advanced, however, has never been permitted to exceed one-half the value of the property as it stood at the time the advance was made.

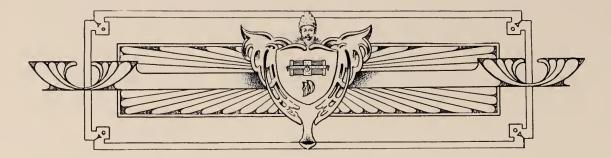
"In this manner numerous dwellings and several churches and manufactories have been added to the permanent improvements of the eastern district of this city through the instrumentality of this bank, while at the same time it has paid nearly \$2,000,000 in interest to depositors upon moneys, which, if they had remained in the individual possession and management of the persons who placed them there, in the sums in which they were deposited, would probably have produced little or nothing in the way of interest.

"The growth of this bank has been steady and almost unceasing, the year 1861, the first year of the Civil War, being the only year in which the number of accounts closed exceeded the number opened. The Bank has suffered no





ENTRANCE TO NEW VAULT



embarrassment at any time. During the panics and revulsions which have occurred in business and financial circles, since its organization it has always been prepared for any emergency which has arisen and has never made any sacrifice whatever to meet any demands upon it."

This report might just as well have been written yesterday, for, as if prophetic of the future when written, it is true to-day, in all but its figures. These have grown wonderfully

since then.

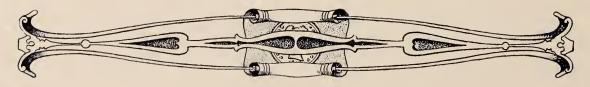
The present number of loans outstanding to the credit of the bank is 5,183, amounting in the aggregate to \$28,097,895, or an average of \$5,421 per single loan. The present number of depositors is 99,438 and their savings total to \$53,615,446. It is only a question of a few more months when the depositors will exceed the one hundred thousand mark.

More Than 12,000 New Depositors Put Money in the Bank in 1909.

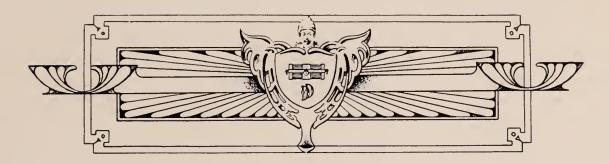
During the year 1909, 12,279 persons, representing practically every civilized country and every phase of religious belief, opened accounts with the Williamsburgh Savings

Bank for the first time. Were you one of them?

Since the founding of the bank in 1851 the stupendous sum of \$679,573,358 has passed through it. In other words, the total deposits for the fifty-nine years of its existence have aggregated \$345,177,094, and the total withdrawals to \$334,396,264. It has paid out in interest during these fifty-nine years \$42,835,757.



The Williamsburgh Savings Bank of Brooklyn

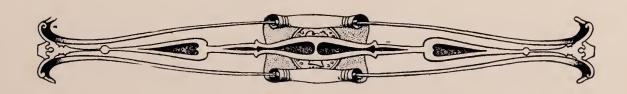


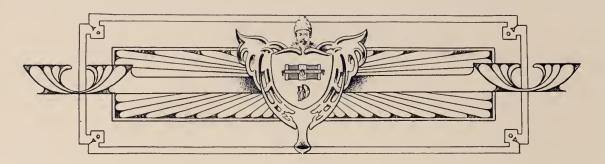
Have you gotten any of this money?

If you have not, you are that much poorer; but you may begin to participate in the future distributions of dividends by opening an account of your own now.

The Williamsburgh Savings Bank is a Perfect Investment Machine.

That a savings bank, and the Williamsburgh Savings Bank in particular, is the most highly developed investing machine yet devised by man is an irrefutable fact. Greater sums of money can be invested by savings banks with a consequent greater aggregate return at a less expense than by any other agency. The expenses of operating the Williamsburgh Savings Bank for the year 1909 amounted to \$181,830. The rate of expense for each dollar of liabilities was little more than a quarter of a cent; for each of the 99,438 persons who had accounts in the bank, \$1.82. In comparison with the commissions demanded by brokers and other banks employed in the investment of capital this rate is ridiculously small and inconsequential.





The Williamsburgh Savings Bank is the Best Public Benevolence in Brooklyn.

The Williamsburgh and all mutual savings banks are essentially philanthropic. They are operated for the sole benefit of the depositors. As philanthropic enterprises they are less costly and far more useful than any other kind of benevolence.

The quarter of a cent per dollar which it cost the Williamsburgh Savings Bank during the year 1909 to receive and disburse its \$53,615,446 of deposits stands out in bold contrast to the 40 and 50 cents per dollar it usually costs to conduct other philanthropies.

But savings bank philanthropy, while cheaper than any other, is also better and truer, for it is a philanthropy that

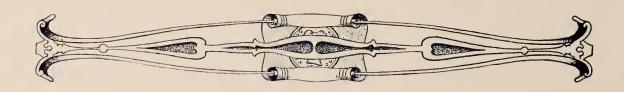
teaches people to help themselves.

It is the highest form of self help and in the words of old Daniel Defoe, about whom we talked in the early part of this booklet, we may exclaim:

"For who, indeed, would ever pity that man in his distress who, at the expense of two pots of beer a month, ought to

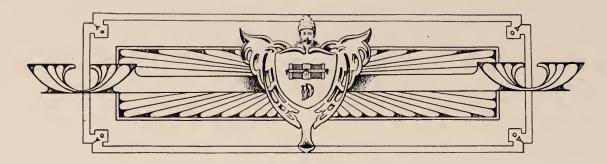
have prevented it and would not spare it?"

We have appended to this little treatise a series of tables which will show you at a glance the development and growth of the Williamsburgh Savings Bank. You should open an account to-day. It is not necessary that you live in the vicinity of the bank or in Brooklyn. You can open an account by mail. Write for further particulars.





ROOM OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES



I.

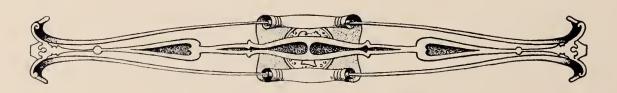
TABLE SHOWING THE DEPOSITS AND DRAFTS OF THE WILLIAMSBURGH SAVINGS BANK BY DECADES.

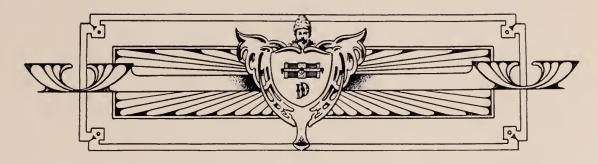
	Deposits.	Drafts.
1851-62	\$5,902,602.	\$4,404,136.
1862-72	26,086,072.	21,940,631.
1872-82	42,932,713.	39,720,115.
1882-92	81,905,359.	78,601,717.
1892-1902	86,526,574.	86,895,609.
1902-1910	101,823,774.	102,834,056.
Total	\$345,177,094.	\$334,396,264.

II.

Table Showing the Growth in the Number of Open Accounts and in the Amount on Deposit at Ten Year Intervals.

	No. of Accounts.	Due Depositors
1862	10,287	\$1,916,041.
1872	19,977	8,941,769.
I 882	42,459	18,384,053.
1892	71,870	30,175,650.
1902	88,923	41,254,024.
1910	99,438	53,615,446.





III.

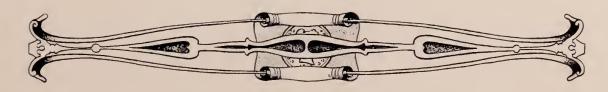
Table Showing the Growth in Amount and the Percentage of Surplus and Dividends at Ten Year Intervals.

	Surplus.		Divi	DENDS.
	Amount. H	Rate Per Cent.	Amount.	Rate Per Cent.
1862	\$68,325.	3.56	\$484,796.	6
1872	790,164.	8.84	3,289,794.	8
1882	1,482,527.	8.06	6,398,799.	6 and 5
1892	3,141,259.	10.41	8,793,183.	4
1902	3,631,809.	8.80	11,178,063.	$3^{1/2}$ and 4
1910	7,172,738.	13.38	12,691,122.	$3^{1/2}$ and 4
			<u> </u>	
			\$42,835,757.	Total.

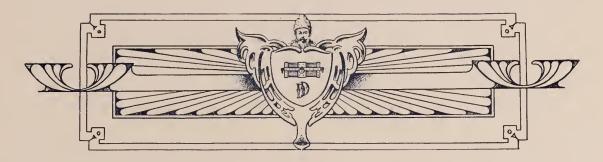
IV.

NEW ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR 1909 AS TO NATIONALITIES.

Germany	2,073 851 767	Scandinavia Other European Asia English Colonies Sundry Locations	99 154 20 72 5
Great Britain Austria-Hungary	264	Total	







THE WILLIAMSBURGH SAVINGS BANK Brooklyn, New York.

Annual Statement, January 1, 1910.

RESOURCES

Bonds and Mortgages\$28,097,895.00
United States Bonds 1,500,000.00
New York State Bonds 1,100,000.00
Massachusetts State Bonds 429,000.00
Bonds of Cities in this State 15,365,582.39
Bonds of Counties in this State 63,000.00
Bonds of Towns in this State 18,000.00
Bonds of Villages in this State 180,000.00
Bonds of Cities in other States 7,569,700.00
Railroad Mortgage Bonds 2,210,000.00
Banking House 250,000.00
Other Real Estate
Other Assets
Interest Due and Accrued 596,715.00
Cash 3,439,456.42
\$60,824,458.13
LIABILITIES
Deposits\$53,615,446.66
Surplus at par 7,209,011.47
\$60,824,458.13

